IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as described in claim 10, including~~ In a computer system which has a first computer, a second computer connected to said first computer via a communication line, a first storage apparatus connected to said second computer via a fixed length access interface and storing data in a fixed-length block format used by said second computer, and a second storage apparatus connected to said first computer, a method for processing data stored in said first storage apparatus to said first computer ~~further~~ comprising the steps of:

requesting, from said first computer to said second computer via said communication line, to send data stored in said first storage apparatus in said fixed-length block format to said first computer via the communication line;

reading by using said second computer, in response to said request, data in said fixed-length block format from said first storage apparatus via said fixed length access

2

interface and transferring by using said second computer said read data in said fixed length block format to said first computer via the communication line;

converting, in said first computer, said transferred data in said fixed-length block format to data in variable-length block format;

processing said converted data in said first computer;

making volume information for accessing data stored in said first storage apparatus, in said first computer;

checking whether data to be read is stored in said first ~~the~~ storage apparatus or not based on said volume information by using said first computer; and

reading data from said second storage apparatus if the data to be read is not stored in said first storage apparatus by said first computer.

2̲6̶. (Previously Presented)   A method as described in claim 2̶1̶,

wherein said second storage apparatus is connected to said second computer, and

wherein data, read by said first computer, is stored in said second storage apparatus by said second computer.

3

2̶3̶. (Currently Amended) A system ~~according to claim 18,~~ comprising:

a first computer;

a second computer connected to said first computer through a communication line;

a first storage apparatus storing data in a fixed-length block format connected to said second computer via a fixed length access interface; and

a second storage apparatus connected to said first computer,

wherein said first computer requests said second computer to send data stored in said first storage apparatus via said communication line,

wherein said second computer reads said data stored in said first storage apparatus via said fixed length access interface and transfers said data to said first computer via said communication line based on said request,

4

wherein said first computer receives said

transferred data, converts said received data to a variable-

length block format, and processes said converted data,

wherein said ~~processor~~ *first computer* makes volume information for

accessing data stored in said first storage apparatus,

wherein said first computer checks whether data to

be read is stored in ~~the~~ said first storage apparatus or not

based on said volume information, and

wherein said first computer reads data from said

second storage apparatus if the data to be read is not stored

in said first storage apparatus.

4
~~24~~. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim

3
~~23~~,

wherein said second storage apparatus is connected

to said second computer, and

wherein data, read by said first computer, is stored

in said second storage apparatus by said second computer.

5